

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 1660

DEPT FOR INR/P, EA/PRCM, CU/EA, INR REA
HONG KONG FOR PPO SMITH

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: AINR APUB OEXC OTRA (DR WANG CHI) CH SOPN

REF: (A) HONG KONG 8797
(B) STATE 177135 (C) STATE 181278

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DR. WANG CHI, HEAD OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CHINESE AND KOREAN SECTION OF THE ORIENTALIA DIVISION, ARRIVED IN CANTON ON JULY 29 FOR HIS THIRD LIBRARY ACQUISITION VISIT TO THE PRC. THOUGH TRAVELLING ON A REGULAR PASSPORT AND HOSTED BY CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE, DR. WANG HAS ENJOYED VIP TREATMENT INCLUDING ACCESS TO OFFICIALS AND INSTITUTIONS RARELY AVAILABLE TO FOREIGNERS. HIGHLIGHTS OF HIS TRIP TO DATE HAVE INCLUDED TOURS OF PEKING LIBRARY AND THE PEOPLE'S DAILY. BEFORE EXITING THE PRC IN MID-AUGUST HE IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE PEKING UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, THE BUREAU OF PUBLICATIONS AND CONTROL, AND MAJOR LIBRARIES IN SHENYANG, SHANGHAI, AND CANTON. END SUMMARY.

2. DR. WANG CHI, HEAD OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CHINESE AND KOREAN SECTION OF THE ORIENTALIA DIVISION, IS CURRENTLY ON HIS THIRD LIBRARY ACQUISITION VISIT TO THE PRC (REFTELS).
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PEKING 01660 080841Z

THOUGH DR WANG IS TRAVELLING ON A REGULAR PASSPORT, THE HOST ORGANIZATION CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE (CITS) HAS GIVEN HIM VIP TREATMENT. A CITS OFFICIAL WAS ON HAND TO USHER HIM THROUGH SHUMCHUN CUSTOMS AND TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON THE CANTON-PEKING FLIGHT.

3. CANTON (7/29-8/1). GIVEN CARTE BLANCHE TO BROWSE

BEHIND THE COUNTERS OF CANTON'S HSINHUA BOOKSTORE (A PRIVILEGE NOT COUSTOMARILY GRANTED EVEN TO CHINESE), DR WANG PURCHASED SOME 700 VOLUMES -- THE MAJORITY VROM PROVINCIAL PRINTING HOUSES. THE BOOKSTORE MANAGER -- A FRIEND OF DR WANG'S FROM PREVIOUS VISITS -- INDICATED THAT THE PRC DOES PUBLISH AN ANNUAL LIST OF NEW TITLES, BUT THIS LIST IS "INTERNAL REFERENCE" ONLY, APPARENTLY OWING PARTIALLY TO EMBARRASSMENTTHAT IT IS SO SKIMPY; THE "TITLES" TOTALLED ONLY 10,000 LAST YEAR INCLUDING CHARTS, POSTERS, MAPS, AND PAM KHLETS.

4. PEKING (8/2--10). CITS ARRANGED VISITS TO A NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS NORMALLY BARRED TO FOREIGNERS: PEKING (MUNICIPAL) LIBRARY (WHICH IS THE DIRECT COUNTERPART OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS); THE BUREAU OF PULBICATIONS AND CONTROL; THE PEOPLE'S DAILY LIBRARY AND PRINTING FACILITIES; AND PEKING UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

5. ESCORTED BY PEKING LIBARRY DIRECTOR LIU CHI-P'ING AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR PAO CHENG-KU, DR WANG SPENT THE BULK OF HIS TIME IN THE PERIODICAL ROOM. ACCORDING TO LIBRARY OFFICIALS, THERE ARE CURRENTLY SOME 1000-PLUS PERIODICIALS PUBLISHED IN THE PRC; OF THESE ALL BUT 100-150 ARE RESTRICTED TO "INTERNAL USE ONLY". CONTEMPORARY BOOK HOLDINGS ARE UNIMPRESSIVE, JUDGING BY PERUSAL OF CATALOGS AND SCANNING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PEKING 01660 080841Z

O F THE STACKS. BEYOND THIS, ACCORDING TO DR WANG, THE LIBARRY HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY DAMAGED IN THE JULY 1976 QUAKE; FOUR LARGE WOODEN BEAMS WERE REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE MAIN CEILING.

6. LIU AND PAO WERE NONCOMMITTAL ON PROPOSALS TO STEP UP THE FLOW OF BOOKS AND OTHER MATERIALS FROM THE PEKING LIBRARY TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

7. THE PEOPLE'S DAILY. DR. WANG VISITED THE PEOPLE'S DAILY (PD) ON AUGUST 6 AT THE SUGGESTION OF CITS. HOSTED THERE BY DEPUTY EDITOR-IN-CHIEF PAN FEI AND PEOPLE'S DAILY LIBRARY DIRECTOR YAO WEI, DR. WANG WAS GIVEN A TOUR OF THE PD PRINTING ROOM AND LIBRARY. HE WAS SHOWN A NEWLY-ACQUIRED JAPANESE PRESS WHICH IS CAPABLE OF TURNING OUT 1000 CHINESE CHARACTERS PER MINUTE. THE LIBRARY -- MORE IMPRESSIVE THAN THE PEKING LIBRARY ACCORDING TO DR WANG - CONTAINS MORE THAN 300,000 VOLUMES INCLUDING WORKS PUBLISHED IN TAIWAN AND HONG KONG. IT IS OPEN ONLY TO PD STAFFERS, HOWEVER.

8. PAN FEI INDICATED THAT PEOPLE'S DAILY, KWANGMING DAILY AND PEKING DAILY (A RESTRICTED-CIRCULATION PAPER) ALL SHARE

THE SAME PRINTING FACILITIES. NATIONWIDE THE PEOPLE'S DAILY HAS A CIRCULATION CURRENTLY OF 8.5 MILLION; BY COMPARISON THE RESTRICTED CIRCULATION REFERENCE NEWS (TS'AN-K'AO HSIAO-HSI) HAS A NATIONAL CIRCULATION OF 9 MILLION. STRESSING THAT THE PEOPLE'S DAILY IS A PARTY ORGAN WITH SPECIFIC PROPAGANDA FUNCTIONS TO PERFORM, PAN CLAIMED THAT SUBSCRIBERS TO REFERENCE NEWS MAY ACQUIRE "STRAIGHT" NEWS ON MATTERS OF CURRENT INTERNATIONAL IMPORTANCE SINCE EDITORS NEVER TAMPERED WITH THE TEXT, EVEN TO THE POINT OF NOT STRIKING THE WORD "BANDIT" FROM TAIWAN NEWSPAPER CHARACTERIZATIONS OF THE PRC AND ITS LEADERS. COMMENT: WHILE REFERENCE NEWS EDITORS DO LET REMAIN THE WORD "BANDIT", THEY USUALLY EXERCISE A GOOD DEAL OF EDITORIAL DISCRETION -- NOT ALWAYS ACKNOWLEDGED -- BOTH IN SELECTION OF ARTICLES

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 PEKING 01660 080841Z

PRINTED AND WHAT IS LEFT IN THE ARTICLES). PAN SAID THAT BOTH PEOPLE'S DAILY AND PEKING DAILY HAVE A DAILY CIRCULATION IN PEKING OF 1.7 MILLION; KWANGMING DAILY SELLS "MUCH FEWER" PAPERS.

9. DR. WANG IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT THE PEKING UNIVERSITY LIBRARY ON AUGUST 10. HE WILL DEPART THE NEXT DAY FOR SHENYANG, WHERE HE EXPECTS TO TOUR THE SHENYANG MUNICIPAL LIBRARY AND THE LIAONING UNIVERSITY LIBRARY. AFTER THREE DAYS IN SHENYANG/TALIEN, HE WILL VISIT SHANGHAI AND CANTON. IN SHANGHAI EXPECTS TO SEE THE SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL LIBRARY AND THE FUDAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AND IN CANTON HE HAS BEEN PROMISED A TOUR OF THE CHUNGSHAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY. HE WILL EXIT VIA HONG KONG AROUND AUGUST 29.

10. LIBRARY OF CONGRESS MESSAGE TO DR WANG (REF C) WAS PASSED. DR. WANG RAISED QUESTION IN LOW-KEY MANNER WITH ITS HOSTS, WHO APPARENTLY ALLOWED THAT THEY MIGHT RETHINK THE TURNDOWN OR EXPLORE OTHER POSSIBILITIES. NO COMMITMENT WAS GIVEN, HOWEVER.

11. DR. WANG INDICATED THAT HE WOULD PREPARE FULL REPORT ON HIS TRIP AND PROVIDE COPIES TO CONCERNED ADDRESSEES.

12. FOR INR/P AND HONG KONG PPO: DR. WANG AND USLO PPO BRIEFLY DISCUSSED LC PROCUREMENT MATTERS (REFS A & B). USLO PPO INDICATED THAT PROCUREMENT WOULD COMMENCE AS DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON AND HONG KONG.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
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SAS ID: 1674586
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS VISIT
TAGS: AINR, APUB, OEXC, OTRA, SOPN, CH, (DR WANG CHI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a11add5f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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